

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 EB-11

DOTE-00 DRC-01 /159 W

----- 070900

R 110350Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8421

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 10214

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN CH JA FR GW

SUBJECT: IS PEKING GIVING NEW EMPHASIS TO RAILWAYS?

1. LONDON'S GENERALLY RELIABLE METAL BULLETIN HAS REPORTED THE PRC "IS TO SEND A TEAM TO JAPAN IN THE AUTUMN TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN PLANS FOR A MASSIVE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CHINESE RAILWAY SYSTEM, INCLUDING HIGHSPEED EXPRESSES" (SEPTEMBER 7 ISSUE, PAGE 34). A SIMILAR STORY APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 24 FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW (PAGE 40). BOTH STORIES MAY DERIVE FROM AFP TOKYO REPORT OF AUGUST 30 WHICH, HOWEVER, REFERRED ONLY TO ITS BEING A STUDY MISSION. ACCORDING TO OCTOBER 1 EA PRESS SUMMARY (STATE 194979, PARA 11), JOURNAL OF COMMERCE (JOC) NEWS STORY SAYS PRC, " WITH VIEW TO MODERNIZING AND EXPANDING ROLLING STOCK," RECENTLY PLACED LARGE ORDERS WITH WEST GERMAN AND FRENCH RAILROAD INDUSTRIES.

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2. WE ARE AWARE OF CHINESE PURCHASES OF LOCOMOTIVES FROM EUROPE IN RECENT PAST AND OF APPARENT INTENTION TO CONTINUE SLOW PROCESS OF ELECTRIFYING CERTAIN SMALL RAIL SEGMENTS. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF "A MASSIVE RECONSTRUCTION/ OF THE RAILWAY SYSTEM, A SPEED-UP IN THE ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAM OR EVEN SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED IMPORTS OF LOCOMOTIVES OR ROLLING STOCK.

3. REQUES DEPARTMENT PROVIDE TEXT OF JOC ARTICLE. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS DEPARTMENT AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WOULD CARE TO ADD. SUGGEST YOU INFO PEKING AS WELL.
OSBORN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK10214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731039/aaaabcjj.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Jul-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <09-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IS PEKING GIVING NEW EMPHASIS TO RAILWAYS?
TAGS: ETRN, CH, JA, FR, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005